

**AN OVERVIEW OF CALIFORNIA'S CAPACITY TO MONITOR POVERTY, EVALUATE ANTI-
POVERTY PROGRAMS, AND PROJECT POVERTY RATES**

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A PRESENTATION TO THE ...
*LIFTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY
TASK FORCE*

EXISTING DATA SYSTEM

SURVEYS (E.G., ACS)

ONE-OFF ANALYSES OF UNLINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (E.G., FTB)

ONE-OFF ANALYSES OF LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (E.G., FTB DATA LINKED TO CENSUS)

PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING DATA SYSTEM

MONITORING POVERTY

- UNDER-REPORTING OF TRANSFERS AND BENEFITS (WHEN SURVEYS USED)
- INFREQUENT AND DELAYED MEASUREMENT (I.E., *ANNUAL* POVERTY REPORTS)
- LOW RESOLUTION (E.G., UNAVAILABILITY OF SUB-COUNTY POVERTY ESTIMATES)
- CROSS-PROGRAM USE CONCEALED (BECAUSE LINKED DATA NOT TYPICALLY AVAILABLE)

PROGRAM EFFECTS AND POVERTY PROJECTIONS: DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE WITHOUT LARGE CALIFORNIA PANEL

AB1520 MAY RAMP UP DEMANDS ON ALREADY INADEQUATE SYSTEM

MAY REQUIRE IMPROVED MONITORING OF POVERTY (E.G., HIGHER RESOLUTION, BETTER MEASUREMENT OF PROGRAM USE)

MAY REQUIRE IMPROVED CAPACITY TO ASSESS WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T

- *HOW* TO INTERVENE (CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS, UNCONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS, DIRECT DELIVERY OF SERVICES, ETC.)
- *WHEN* TO INTERVENE (PRENATAL, EARLY CHILDHOOD, FORMAL SCHOOLING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ETC.)
- *WHERE* TO INTERVENE (FAMILY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, NEIGHBORHOODS, SCHOOLS, LABOR MARKET)

MAY REQUIRE IMPROVED CAPACITY TO DELIVER PROJECTIONS AND COUNTERFACTUALS

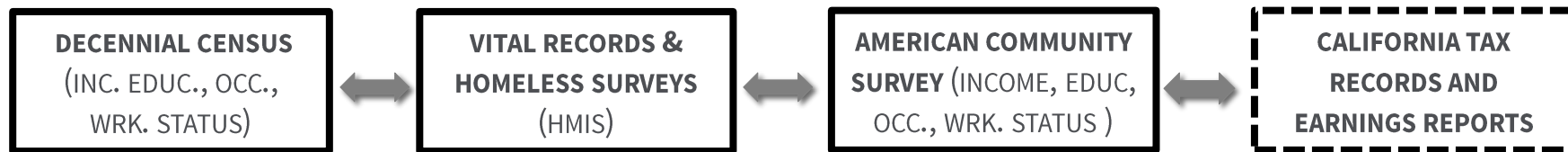
HOW CAN THESE CAPACITIES BE DEVELOPED?

DELIVER ON-DEMAND LINKAGES ACROSS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SETS AND KEY SURVEYS

MANY GROUPS (E.G., CDN, CPL, CPI) ARE COLLABORATING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES – STATE AND FEDERAL – TO DEVELOP VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THIS CAPACITY

THREE STEPS

STEP I: BUILD THE POPULATION FRAME



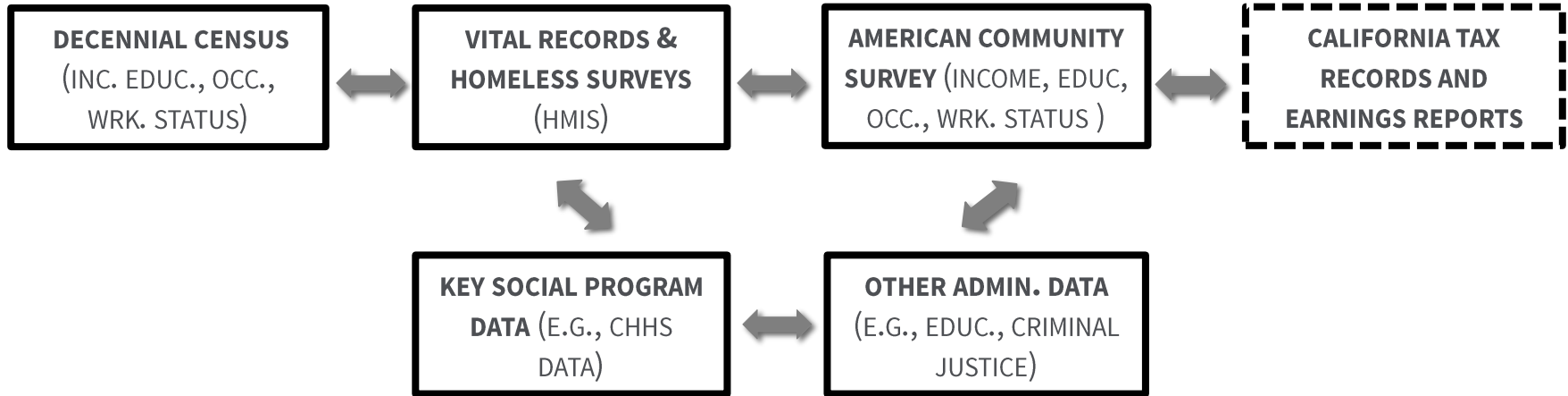
LINK CROSS-SECTIONAL DATA AND CONVERT THEM INTO PANEL

PRESERVE AND RECORD INTERGENERATIONAL LINKAGES

REPRESENT THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION

SELF-REFRESHING AS WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE

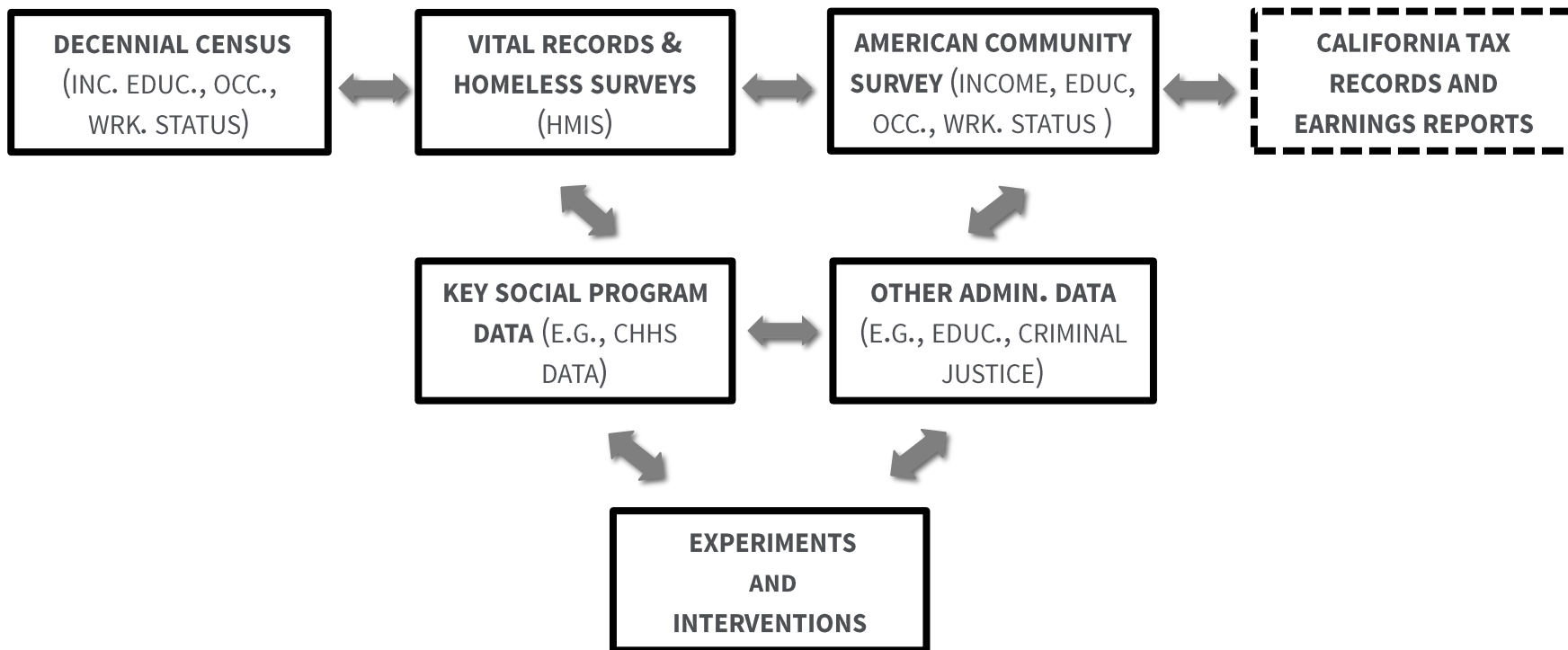
STEP II: HANG ADMINISTRATIVE DATA OFF POPULATION FRAME



AGAIN DEPENDS ON NEGOTIATING DATA-SHARING AGREEMENTS

AGAIN REQUIRES CLOSE COLLABORATION OF STATE AGENCIES, UNIVERSITIES, FRANCHISE TAX BOARD, AND CENSUS BUREAU

STEP III: LINK SMALLER SURVEYS, EXPERIMENTS, INTERVENTIONS



REMAINING CHALLENGES

DATA-SHARING AGREEMENTS

GOVERNANCE

LINKING

SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

EXPLOITING THE NEW CAPACITY

TEN PAYOFFS

PAYOFF #1: LONG-RUN EFFECTS SEAMLESSLY TRACKED

THE NUMBER ONE LESSON FROM PROGRAM EVALUATION: DON'T IGNORE THE LONG RUN

- WORRIES ABOUT WASHOUT OF EFFECTS
- WORRIES ABOUT “SLEEPER EFFECTS” THAT SURFACE LATER AND THEIR EFFECTS ON ESTIMATED ACCUMULATED RETURNS OVER THE LIFECOURSE

BUT LONG-RUN PANEL SURVEYS ARE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE AND PLAGUED BY ATTRITION

➡ UNDERINVEST IN THEM

SOLUTION: LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (RECOVER PAST DATA AND REFRESH WITH NEW DATA)

PAYOFF #2: INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECTS SEAMLESSLY TRACKED

A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TYPE OF LONG-RUN EFFECT: THE INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECT (E.G., POSITIVE EFFECTS OF SNAP ON CHILDREN ... WHEN THEY'RE CHILDREN *AND* WHEN THEY'RE ADULTS)

LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA INCLUDE PARENTAL IDENTIFIERS (VIA MULTIPLE TRACES – CORESIDENCE, DEPENDENT FILINGS, SOCIAL SECURITY FILINGS – THAT CAPTURE FAMILY COMPLEXITY)

PAYOFF #3: EVALUATING ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL POLICY

IMPORTANT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HETEROGENEITY OF EFFECTS (BY POVERTY TYPE,
DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP, NEIGHBORHOOD)

WE CAN'T EFFICIENTLY TARGET WITHOUT FIRST KNOWING ABOUT SUCH HETEROGENEITY

LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE PANELS ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO EVALUATE PROGRAMS ACROSS WIDE
RANGE OF SUBPOPULATIONS

PAYOFF #4: BETTER CAUSAL INFERENCE

EXPLOIT QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT ONLY BECOME POSSIBLE WITH BIG DATA

EXAMPLES

- DIFFERENTIAL ROLLOUT
- DISCONTINUITIES

PAYOFF #5: EMBEDDED EXPERIMENTS

TRACK EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS “ON THE NATURAL” WITHIN
ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL

REDUCES COST OF EXPERIMENTS

AFTER-THE-FACT EVALUATIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE (IF CONSENT SECURED AND LISTS AVAILABLE)

PAYOFF #6: EVALUATING INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION

EXAMPLE: EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION

- EFFECTS OF WITHIN-PRISON TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- EFFECTS OF REENTRY SUPPORT
- EFFECTS OF BAN-THE-BOX

MANY OTHER INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTS CAN BE STRAIGHTFORWARDLY EXAMINED

PAYOFF #6: EXPLOITING DECENTRALIZED PROGRAMMING

HIGHLY DECENTRALIZED PROGRAMMING

BUT WE DON'T EXPLOIT IT FOR THE EVIDENCE IT YIELDS

PAYOFF #7: PROGRAM INTERACTIONS

PROGRAMS ARE USUALLY EXAMINED IN ISOLATION ... EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE TYPICALLY OVERLAID ON TOP OF MANY OTHER PROGRAMS

LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE PANELS CAN BE USED TO EXAMINE VARIOUS TYPES OF INTERACTIONS (E.G., EFFECTS OF EITC PLUS CALFRESH ON HEALTH)

SAMPLE SIZE MATTERS

PAYOFF #8: MAKING THE SWEDISH LEAP OF FAITH LESS FREQUENTLY

SHOCKINGLY LARGE AMOUNT OF RECEIVED WISDOM ON POVERTY POLICY (E.G., CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS, CHILD TAX CREDITS) DRAWS ON REGISTER, TAX, OR LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FROM *OTHER* STATES OR COUNTRIES

NOT A RECIPE FOR GOOD PROGRAM EVALUATION

PAYOFF #9: DIRECTLY IMPROVING OUTCOMES VIA INFORMATION INTERVENTIONS AND REDUCTIONS IN TRANSACTION COSTS

USE DATA TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE TAKEUP, TO INFORM ABOUT
SUCCESSFUL JOB TRANSITIONS IN LOCAL AREA, TO INFORM ABOUT COLLEGE
OPPORTUNITIES, AND SO FORTH

PAYOFF #10

BECOME A MODEL FOR THE COUNTRY: THE COUNTRY'S PREMIER DATA SYSTEM FOR RUNNING
AUTHENTIC EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY